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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

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10 JAN 1984

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William R. Graham
Chairman
General Advisory Committee on Arms
Control and Disarmament
Washington, D. C. 20451

Dear Mr. Graham:

I appreciate the comments contained in your letter of 20 December 1983, citing the value of the analytical approach taken in SNIE 11-17-83, "Implications of Soviet Use of Chemical and Toxin Weapons for U.S. Security Interests," 15 September 1983.

We are working hard to confirm the extent of the reduction in the Soviet use and supply of these lethal weapons and to determine the factors which may have generated this development. At the same time, we are preparing a follow-up SNIE which will consider the implications of Soviet R&D on new CBW agents, particularly those involving the biological sciences and genetic engineering.

In these and other cases we will continue to consider the potential impact of responsive measures taken by the U.S. and others in the interest of fulfilling as fully as possible the needs of the policy-making community.

Sincerely,

WJ/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence



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SUBJECT: Letter to William R. Graham, Chairman, General Advisory
Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament from DCI

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GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

Washington, D.C. 20451

December 20, 1983

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Dear Mr. Casey,

I am writing to express the appreciation of the General Advisory Committee for one of the many fine National Intelligence Estimates upon which we have relied in the development of advice on arms control policy.

We would like to note the value to the Committee of SNIE II-17-83, Implications of Soviet Use of Chemical and Toxin Weapons for U.S. Security Interests, 15 September 1983. This special intelligence estimate drew tentative conclusions about the effects of responsive measures and their absence upon Soviet perceptions of the risks and gains of continuing use of toxin and chemical warfare in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Such intelligence on the effect of measures to restore and strengthen arms control compliance is valuable to the policy community -- even if it indicates, from time to time, that policy initiatives have not always encountered complete success.

At the same time, it is important to learn the lessons of arms control compliance successes. In particular, if there has been a striking reduction in the Soviet use of lethal chemical and toxin weapons and supply of bulk agents to Soviet clients, it would be helpful to understand the factors that may have affected such possible change in Soviet policy and practice.

The Honorable
William J. Casey,
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency.

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I hope that you will encourage a continuation of recent intelligence community efforts to include in estimates of Soviet arms control behavior the effects, if any, of responsive measures taken by other nations. Please convey to the authors of SNIE 11-17-83 our thanks for an analysis well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Graham".

William R. Graham
Chairman

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Remarks

Please prepare short acknowledgment
for Acting DCI McMahon's signature.

Executive Secretary

21 December 1983
Date

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